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ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION

SUMMARY. AFTER A WEEK OF HAGGLING, LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTIES
AGREED SEPTEMBER 22 THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD DELIVER AD-
MINISTRATIVE POLICY SPEECH SEPTEMBER 23 TO BE FOLLOWED BY
GENERAL INTERPELLATIONS ON 26, 27, 28. OPPOSITION WAS PRESS-
ING LDP ON LOCKHEED, FOR DISCLOSURE OF "GREY AREA" NAMES AND
CALLING

DIET MEMBERS AS WITNESSES BEFORE LOCKHEED SPECIAL
COMMITTEE. LDP AGREED TO PREPARE AN "INTERIM" LOCKHEED
REPORT AND TO LEAVE CALLING OF WITNESSES AND DEFINITION OF
"GREY NAMES" UP TO DIET. MIKI'S LEGISLATIVE GOALS ARE LIMITED.

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TOP PRIORITY WILL GO TO UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE OF LONG-

PENDING DEFICIT BONS MEASURE, BUT HE ALSO HAS SPOKEN OF SEEKING APPROVAL OF BILLS TO INCREASE NATIONAL RAILWAY AND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH RATES. OPPOSITION PARTIES, OPPOSED TO LATTER MEASURES, WILL EMPLOY NORMAL DELAYING TACTICS, BUT AT LEAST FORMER BILL IS ALMOST CERTAIN OF PASSAGE. THIS PROMISES TO BE A STORMY SESSION, BUT, ALTHOUGH LDP' INTERNECINE WARFARE IS FAR FROM OVER, DIET POLITICS HAVE REGAINED SOME NORMALCY. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER A WEEK OF HAGGLING, LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREED SEPTEMBER 22 ON AGENDA FOR CURRENT EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION WHICH BEGAN SEPTEMBER 16 AND WAS FORMALLY OPENED BY EMPEROR SEPTEMBER 21. PRIME MINISTER WILL DELIVER ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY SPEECH SEPTEMBER 24; GENERAL INTERPELLATIONS WILL BE HELD IN LOWER HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28 AND IN UPPER HOUSE SEPTEMBER 29; BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARINGS WILL FOLLOW "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;" AND DIET WILL ADJOURN NOVEMBER 4.

2. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ONLY AFTER OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD DELAYED DIET BUSINESS BY OBJECTING TO UNILATERAL LDP DECISION ON 50-DAY LENGTH OF SESSION, DEMANDING THAT LOCKHEED PROBE BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY DURING SESSION, THAT "GREY AREA" (I.E. UNINDICTABLE) NAMES BE DISCLOSED, AND THAT DIET MEMBERS, AMONG OTHERS, BE SUMMONED TO TESTIFY BEFORE SPECIAL LOCKHEED DIET COMMITTEE. OPPOSITION ALSO OBJECTED TO LDP'S DECISION TO POSTPONE IMPLEMENTATION OF PAY RAISE GRANTED LAST MAY TO NATIONAL RAILWAY AND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES UNTIL DIET ENACTED BILL INCREASING RAIL FARES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS RATES. IN THIS CONNECTION SOCIALISTS IN PARTICULAR UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM THEIR SOHYO BACKERS, OPPOSED STRENUOUSLY TO WHAT THEY TERM LDP'S LATEST ANTI-LABOR MANUEVER - I.E. SUBMITTING BILL THIS WEEK REQUIRING DIET APPROVAL FOR ANY EVENTUAL WAGE HIKE FOR EMPLOYEES AT THESE DEFICIT-RIDDEN PUBLIC CORPORATIONS. PERHAPS FEARING THAT FURTHER DELAY IN DIET BUSINESS WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE, OPPOSITION PARTIES ACCEPTED AGREEMENT THAT CONTAINED ONLY MINOR CONCESSIONS FROM LDP - THAT GOJ WOULD MAKE INTERIM LOCKHEED REPORT AND THAT QUESTION OF HANDLING OF "GREY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA" NAMES AND THE CALLING OF WITNESSES WOULD BE LEFT TO DIET. FINAL VERBAL AGREEMENT MADE NO REFERENCE TO OTHER DEMANDS.

3. LIKE RECENT DIET SESSIONS, OUTCOME OF THIS ONE IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. MIKI'S LEGISLATIVE GOALS ARE LIMITED. HE HAS GIVEN TOP PRIORITY TO UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE OF LONG-PENDING BILL TO PERMIT FLOTATION OF DEFICIT FINANCING BONDS (PASSED BY LOWER HOUSE IN LAST

DIET SESSION) AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DISASTER RELIEF MEASURES (WHICH SENIOR OFFICIALS CLAIM WILL NOT REQUIRE FURTHER BUDGETARY ACTION). HE HAS ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTS ACTION ON NATIONAL RAILWAY FARE AND TELEPHONE/TELEGRAPH RATE INCREASES. MIKI HAS PROMISED A CONCLUSION OF THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION, BUT HE PROBABLY HOPES TO POSTPONE ACTION ON DISCLOSURE OF "GREY AREA" NAMES BY CAREFULLY DANCING AROUND QUESTION WHILE MAKING CONCILIATORY GESTURES TO OPPOSITION IN ORDER TO KEEP DIET ON TRACK AND THEN BACKING OFF WHEN HEAT FROM WITHIN LDP GROWS TOO INTENSE.

4. OPPOSITION, OPPOSED TO BOTH ITEMS ON MIKI'S AGENDA, WILL SEEK EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DELAY DIET DELIBERATIONS. THEY WILL ZERO IN FIRST ON LOCKHEED, GREY-AREA NAMES AND WAGE ISSUE AND, WE EXPECT, WILL BOYCOTT COMMITTEE SESSIONS WHEN GIVEN UNSATISFACTORY ANSWERS BY GOVERNMENT AND LDP SPOKESMEN. LATER IN SESSION OPPOSITION WILL PROBABLY RESORT TO NON-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS AGAINST PRIME MINISTER, FINANCE MINISTER, ETC. AT SAME TIME, WAGE INCREASES ARE PRIORITY GOAL FOR UNIONS AND IN THE END OPPOSITION MAY PERMIT PASSAGE OF KEY BILLS RATHER THAN BEAR ONUS OF FURTHER DELAYING PAY HIKE.

5. IF THE PAST REGULAR DIET SESSION IS ANY EXAMPLE, THIS SESSION ALSO PROMISES TO BE STORMY, BUT ACTION ON AT LEAST THE DEFICIT FINANCING BILL CANNOT BE FURTHER POSTPONED. IN ADDITION, MIKI IS FACING AN EXTRAORDINARY PARTY CONVENTION IN OCTOBER AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE SOME SUCCESSES TO POINT TO BY THAT TIME. AT ONE POINT HE THREATENED DISSOLUTION IF DELIBERATIONS DID NOT STAY ON TRACK AND THIS PROSPECT MIGHT HELP KEEP HIS OWN PARTY IN LINE, AT LEAST UNTIL THE CONVENTION.

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6. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT THE PRE-DIET WEEKS OF PROLONGED LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WITHIN THE LDP, THE OPPOSITION HAD BEEN UNCOMMONLY QUIET. THERE WAS LITTLE ITS INTERVENTIONS COULD HAVE DONE TO IMPROVE ON THE SPECTACLE OF CONSERVATIVE DISARRAY. SIMILARLY, THE LOCKHEED DISCLOSURES HAD THEIR OWN MOMENTUM AND NEEDED NO OPPOSITION ASSIST TO MAKE THE NEWS OR GET HOME TO THE VOTERS. WHILE THE LDP'S INTERNECINE WARFARE IS FAR FROM OVER, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY WEEKS WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE A RETURN TO TRADITIONAL (FOR POSTWAR JAPAN) POLITICAL MANUEVERING. IF TRUE TO PATTERN, IT WILL MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL GET THROUGH SOME, BUT NOT ALL, OF ITS IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM, BUT ONLY AFTER SOME CHAOTIC MOMENTS.

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